

Crew chiefs, "look out below" might be what you'll holler if you lose the left hand crew jettison door when your Kiowa Warrior's .50-cal gun is fired.

You can keep the door in place by performing a thorough pre-flight inspection first, like it says in TM 1-1520-248-10 and AMCOM maintenance information message 98-MIM005.

Make sure the jettison rod extends through the door hinge halves at least ½ inch and that the jettison release handle safety wire is secure prior to .50-cal gun firing missions.

If the safety wire is missing, or the rod isn't extended properly through the hinge halves or the pin is not in place, vibration will work the door mechanism free. Then the door falls off the aircraft as the gun fires.

Also be sure not to use the jettison handle as a handhold or a handrest. If that happens, you could accidently jettison the door.

So don't let another door bite the dust. Pre-flight your bird before you take off and inspect the door mechanism like it says in TM 1-1520-248-PPM.

